

Global variation in the HIV-1 V3 region

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Introduction

Due to the immunogenicity and functional importance of the V3 loop, there has been a great deal of interest in the V3 region of the envelope protein, resulting in a large international effort to obtain V3 region sequences. This section, which includes sequences taken from 1651 individuals and complete references, provides an overview of the variation of sequences that span this region.

Sequences

To best summarize the spectrum of international HIV-1 variants, only one representative viral sequence was included per infected individual. A complete set of references accompanies the sequence alignments, and nomenclature was preserved from the original papers so individuals and isolates can be clearly identified. HIV1 was deleted from the sequence names in this section, as all sequences included here are HIV1. Included with the references when available are brief descriptions of critical features of the sequences. This includes the health status of the individual from whom the virus was derived, whether or not the virus was cultured, and the year the blood sample was taken.

All sequences are prefaced by a subtype association (see phylogenetic clustering below) and a two letter country code to identify the country that the individual resided in at the time that the blood sample was taken. If the person was a recent immigrant and this information was available, we included the country of origin in the references. The two letter code was developed for Internet (Copyright 1992, Lawrence H. Landwater and the Internet Society), and incorporated here based on a suggestion made by Dr. Francine McCutchan. The key to the country codes follows this introduction. Note that this key has been updated for 1996, with several country codes for eastern european nations added.

Sometimes only one viral sequence was available from a person: a clone from an isolate, or a direct sequence of PCR amplified peripheral blood DNA. For other individuals, up to 80 viral sequences from PCR amplified DNA or RNA from blood samples were available. Consequently, over 8000 sequences are represented by the 1651 included in this section. When two sequences were available from a person, one of the two was randomly selected. When three or more sequences were generated from a person, all available sequences were aligned (without regard to different time points of sampling) and either one representative sequence was chosen, or a consensus of the most common base found in each position in the alignment was generated. If there was a tie (e.g., 10 A's, 10 T's), the top base or amino acid in the alignment was used. If a set of sequences from two or more individuals was epidemiologically linked, and genetically very similar, only one sequence from the set was included, preferably the most recently infected. In the sequence description and references section, the short hand "PCR-direct, peripheral blood DNA" is used to signify that viral DNA was amplified from PBMCs, without culturing, and a single "direct" sequence was obtained from the amplification reaction products. The short hand "Consensus, PCR-clones, peripheral blood DNA" signifies that viral DNA was amplified from PBMCs and a set of clones was generated and sequenced from the PCR amplification products. The cloned sequences were aligned and a consensus was generated. In a handful of cases, a particular gp160 clone from an isolate was shown to be expressed and functional using a vaccinia virus T7 expression system. In these cases, the clone rather than the consensus of all sequences from a particular individual is included.

Phylogenetic clustering

Sequences have been organized according to the phylogenetic subtype association (A-J) of their envelope V3 regions only. The original sequence subtype (A-H) designations were defined based on the phylogenetic relationships determined by using both gag and env genes (when possible), are

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approximately genetically equidistant in envelope, and have multiple members. The phylogenetic subtype designations and associations have generally been adopted by the HIV research community, and are now often presented with the publication of new sequences. We have either determined the subtype designations here, if not specified in the original manuscript, or else confirmed the subtype designations of the original manuscripts, and then used the subtypes to organize this section. Generally, confirmations were done by aligning a set HIV-1 V3 region sequences with longer env gene sequences (Part IIIC) that have clear subtype associations, and then using parsimony or neighbor joining trees to determine associations. Some of the shorter gene fragments from this region were given a subtype designation based on Hamming distances, using the similarity function of the MASE program (Faulkner DV, and Jurka J. TIBS 13:321-322 (1988)); these sequences have “.sh” appended to their name to indicate that they were too short for phylogenetic analysis. Parsimony trees were generated using PAUP (David Swofford, Illinois Natural History Survey), and neighbor-joining trees were generated with Kimura distances and a transition to transversion ratio of 1.3 using PHYLIP (Joseph Felsenstein, University of Washington). All available nucleotide sequence information was used for phylogenetic analysis; longer protein sequences were trimmed to be approximately the same length as the majority of the PCR fragments in this region, for the purposes of presentation. Some sequences were difficult to classify, and are included in the “U”, or unclassified, section. In addition, it has recently been noted that recombination between HIV-1 occurs when an individual is infected with more than one strain. A meeting was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico in October, 1995 to discuss the implications of recombination and methods for detecting recombinant sequences. Because inter-subtype as well as intra-subtype recombination is known to occur, the subtype designations reported in this section should be interpreted only as pertaining to the V3 region of the envelope gene. For example HIV-1 MAL from Zaire, is known to be recombinant between subtypes A and D, with the V3 loop of env resembling subtype D. D_ZR-MAL is still listed with other subtype D sequences in this study, but may be moved to the U (uncertain) group in the future.

The set of sequences used to help resolve subtype associations included at least two sequences from each subtype (A-H), plus a simian immunodeficiency virus outgroup sequence. The sequences were selected based on being “typical” of the subtype they represent based on phylogenetic analysis. The set has changed as more sequences have accumulated. Thus not all subtype designations were based on the same reference set.

Limitations of phylogenetic analyses

Most of the PCR derived sequences contain a sub-optimal length for phylogenetic analyses, given the level of variability in this region – typically on the order of 250 to 300 nucleotides. Due to this limitation, some of the classifications in this section are uncertain and are our best estimate given the available information. Control studies were performed to compare the phylogenetic clustering of the V3 region using available longer sequences, however, and these studies indicate that our subtype designations based on the V3 region are generally reliable. For 146 sequences, we had an approximately 700 base region of env available representing all of the subtypes A-H. (The limitation in length was due to including the H subtype sequences, which did not cover all of gp120.) After removing positions in the alignment which included gaps, 519 bases were left. When a 298 base V3 region fragment was excised from this set, and neighbor joining trees were constructed using both the 519 base and 298 base long sequences, the phylogenetic subtype designations were consistent in each case. Further, when a subset of longer gp120 sequences was analyzed (92 of the 146), including 935 bases after removing positions in the alignment which included gaps, the subtype designations were again clear in neighbor-joining trees. This indicates that the limited V3 region PCR fragments, which include more than the V3-loop, are generally able to serve as a reliable basis for subtype determination.

Without detailed analysis, genetic recombination between subtypes may obscure phylogenetic relationships between sequences. A characteristic of recombination is an indeterminate place in phylogenetic analyses, and some of the “Uncertain” category sequences may prove to be recombinant genomes upon further inspection. Also, while a subtype designation based on a gene or gene fragment may be correct, recombination events outside the region examined may have occurred. Therefore, care should be taken to not overinterpret the subtype designations. If one is to discuss the subtype

designations of viral isolates based on the data presented here, they should refer to the designation as “B-like over V3 loop region,” rather than as “subtype B”.

Limitations of V3 amino acid consensus sequences

The V3 amino acid consensus sequences generated for each subtype have interesting features; however, one should be wary about assuming that any of the consensus sequences may broadly represent their subtype. Certainly many V3 loop variants in each of the subtypes are extremely divergent from the consensus sequences. These divergent forms may have very different biological and immunological characteristics from viruses which are similar to the consensus. Additionally, because of the relatively small sample size of most of the subtypes, consensus sequences can be dominated by a small group of highly similar sequences, which may in turn be a sampling artifact. Hence, these consensus sequences are “evolving” as new sequences from each subtype become available.

V3 Loop Amino Acids

The following pages present amino acid alignments of the V3 loop, arranged by phylogenetic subtype. For each subtype, the number of sequences used to construct the alignment is indicated. The top line in each alignment represents the consensus sequence for that subtype, where consensus simply means the most common amino acid found in each position among the sequences of the given subtype. The subscripts record the frequency with which that amino acid is observed at that location among members of the subtype. An amino acid which is conserved 100% is shown with no subscript. Directly beneath the most common amino acid in each position are the other amino acids observed in that position, listed from most common to least common. An asterisk (*) subscript means less than 0.5% of the sequences had the indicated amino acid at that location. A dash (-) indicates a gap inserted to maintain the alignment. Percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number.

For this year's alignment, the HMMER (version 1.8) hidden Markov model software (Sean Eddy, Dept. of Genetics, Washington U. School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO 63110; eddy@genetics.wustl.edu) was used to objectively align all 1651 sequences. The frequency counts are derived from this alignment. Because each subtypes required different numbers and positions of gaps in order to create the full multiple sequence alignment, some sequences with unusual insertions were trimmed from the HMMER alignment, and a few positions were adjusted by hand, using MASE, prior to printing the full alignment which appears following the country codes description. The sequences which were culled from the alignment after counting frequencies, are appended.

Both the untouched HMMER alignment, and the edited version, will be available via ftp from the LANL HIV database (<http://hiv-web.lanl.gov>). Questions about these alignments should be directed to (btf@t10.lanl.gov) (505-665-1970).

A subtype (207 sequences)

N ₈₄	C	T ₇₆	R	P	N ₇₂	N ₇₁	N ₉₇	T ₉₇	R ₉₇	K ₆₇	S ₈₃	V ₅₄	R ₅₁	I ₉₅	G ₉₉	P ₉₈	G	Q ₉₁	A ₆₅	F ₉₅	Y ₉₅	A ₉₃	T ₈₂	G ₈₆	D ₆₄	I ₉₅	I ₉₃	G ₉₉	D ₈₀	I ₉₉	R ₉₈	Q ₈₁	A ₉₉	H ₇₇	C	N ₈₂											
T ₈	I ₁₆	T ₁	L ₁	G ₁₄	K ₃	R ₁	S ₁	R ₁₅	G ₁₃	I ₄₂	H ₄₂	L ₂	A ₁	S ₂	R ₆	T ₂₉	I ₂	F ₃	T ₅	R ₅	E ₁₁	V ₃	T ₄	E ₁₆	N ₁₆	T ₁	K ₁	K ₁₄	V ₂₀	Y ₂₀	T ₉																
D ₃	S ₆	H ₁₀	S ₁₀	D ₁	I ₁	N ₁	T ₁₄	R ₂	M ₁	P ₃	M ₂	R ₁	K ₂	S ₃	L ₁	H ₁	S ₄	D ₅	A ₈	M ₁	V ₁	K ₁	T ₁	R ₄	F ₁	G ₂	V ₂	S ₁	I ₁	V ₃	A ₃	N ₇	G ₇	S ₁	E ₁	N ₁	D ₁										
S ₂	V ₁	Y ₁	R ₁	K ₁	K ₂	Q ₂	N ₁	L ₆	S ₂	F ₁	G ₁	V ₂	S ₁	I ₁	V ₃	A ₃	N ₇	G ₇	S ₁	E ₁	N ₁	D ₁	K ₁	T ₁	R ₄	F ₁	G ₂	V ₂	S ₁	I ₁	V ₃	A ₃	N ₇	G ₇	S ₁	E ₁	N ₁	D ₁									
K ₁	M ₁	A ₁	T ₁	V ₁	L ₁	E ₁	M ₁	D ₁	N ₁	T ₁	S ₁	P ₁	W ₁	C ₁	G ₁	N ₄	G ₁	P ₁	L ₁	S ₁	C ₁	I ₁	R ₂	E ₁	L ₁	S ₁	C ₁	I ₁	R ₂	E ₁	L ₁	S ₁	C ₁	I ₁	R ₂	E ₁	L ₁	S ₁	C ₁								
I ₁	A ₁	T ₁	M ₁	E ₁	A ₁	C ₁	I ₁	R ₂	E ₁	L ₁	S ₁	C ₁	I ₁	R ₂	E ₁	L ₁	S ₁	C ₁	I ₁	R ₂	E ₁	L ₁	S ₁	C ₁	I ₁	R ₂	E ₁	L ₁	S ₁	C ₁	I ₁	R ₂	E ₁	L ₁	S ₁	C ₁	I ₁	R ₂	E ₁	L ₁	S ₁	C ₁					
F ₁	X ₁	S ₁	W ₁	K ₁	I ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁												
E ₁	F ₁	A ₁	W ₁	K ₁	I ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁	K ₁	N ₁										

B subtype (975 sequences)

N ₉₁	C	T ₉₀	R ₉₉	P ₉₉	N ₈₆	N ₉₈	N ₉₅	T ₉₆	R ₉₅	K ₈₄	S ₇₄	I ₉₆	H ₅₇	I ₆₈	G ₉₇	P ₉₂	G ₉₉	R ₇₇	A ₈₈	F ₇₁	Y ₈₈	T ₅₇	T ₉₅	G ₈₈	E ₃₆	I ₉₆	I ₉₁	G ₉₉	D ₈₇	I ₉₈	R ₉₉	Q ₈₇	A ₉₁	H ₉₁	C	N ₉₀						
T ₃	S ₁	I ₈	S ₁	L ₁	S ₇	T ₁	Y ₁	I ₁	S ₂	R ₁₅	G ₁₈	V ₅	P ₁₇	L ₁₉	A ₂	W ₄	R ₉	Q ₉	V ₅	W ₁₇	F ₄	A ₄₀	R ₁	E ₂	Q ₁₉	V ₂	V ₄	E ₁	N ₁₁	T ₁	K ₈	P ₈	Y ₈	T ₃								
H ₂	R ₁	V ₁	T ₁	G ₃	K ₁	H ₁	K ₁	I ₁	X ₁	R ₇	L ₁	N ₈	M ₁₁	Q ₁	E ₁	L ₂	K ₈	T ₅	L ₅	H ₄	A ₂	E ₂	Q ₁₉	V ₂	V ₄	E ₁	N ₁₁	T ₁	K ₈	P ₈	Y ₈	T ₃										
D ₁	X ₁	S ₁	X ₁	H ₁	D ₁	S ₁	T ₁	V ₁	K ₁	T ₁	H ₁	M ₁	T ₅	V ₁	Q ₁	R ₁	E ₁	S ₃	S ₁	V ₃	V ₁	G ₁	R ₁	R ₅	T ₁	A ₁	V ₁	G ₁	M ₁	E ₁	T ₁	F ₁	S ₁	D ₁								
K ₁	E ₁	T ₁	I ₁	I ₁	E ₁	S ₁	X ₁	Q ₁	D ₁	K ₁	S ₅	F ₁	R ₁	G ₁	W ₁	G ₂	R ₁	I ₂	R ₁	V ₁	I ₁	K ₁	G ₄	L ₁	L ₁	R ₁	Q ₁	K ₁	G ₁	L ₁	A ₁	D ₁	S ₁									
S ₁	A ₁	Y ₁	R ₁	X ₁	F ₁	A ₁	M ₁	E ₁	C ₁	T ₁	Y ₃	T ₁	G ₁	S ₁	E ₁	X ₁	S ₁	N ₁	S ₁	S ₁	S ₁	A ₁	A ₂	R ₁	K ₁	X ₁	K ₁	L ₁	H ₁	R ₁	X ₁	N ₁	S ₁									
E ₁	X ₁	D ₁	H ₁	Q ₁	R ₁	G ₁	N ₁	T ₁	F ₁	R ₂	K ₁	S ₁	A ₁	N ₁	G ₁	M ₁	W ₁	X ₁	K ₁	T ₁	N ₂	E ₁	K ₁	A ₁	K ₁	F ₁	H ₁	A ₁	N ₁	S ₁	N ₁	S ₁	N ₁	S ₁	N ₁	S ₁						
I ₁	L ₁	X ₁	Y ₁	S ₁	X ₁	Q ₁	I ₁	X ₁	Y ₁	Q ₁	S ₁	A ₁	V ₁	A ₁	Y ₁	V ₁	X ₁	Q ₁	C ₁	D ₁	K ₁	X ₁	X ₁	H ₁	F ₁	H ₁	A ₁	N ₁	S ₁	N ₁	S ₁											
-	M ₁	F ₁	X ₁	A ₁	V ₁	A ₁	Y ₁	A ₁	Y ₁	A ₁	Y ₁																															
Y ₁	K ₁	L ₁	N ₁	G ₁	A ₁	Y ₁	A ₁	Y ₁	A ₁	Y ₁	A ₁	Y ₁																														
X ₁	T ₁	E ₁	I ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁	X ₁	R ₁	T ₁

C subtype (119 sequences)

V₅₈ C₉₈ T₈₉ R P N₈₀ N₉₉ N T R₉₉ K₈₁ S₉₇ I₈₂ R₉₈ I₉₈ G P G Q T₇₂ F₉₇ Y₉₂ A₉₈ T₉₇ G₈₂ D₇₅ I₉₇ I₉₈ G D₈₃ I R Q₉₁ A₉₉ H₈₅ C₉₉ N₉₆
 N₁₅ R₁ A₇ Y₁ S₁₀ S₁ K₁ E₁₀ G₂ V₁₀ G₁ L₁ A₂₄ L₃ F₇ T₂ N₂ N₁₁ E₁₁ V₃ V₂ N₁₅ E₄ R₁ Y₁₄ L₁ T₃
 E₁₂ Y₁ I₄ G₈ Q₄ R₁ M₆ S₁ V₁ V₂ V₁ H₁ P₁ K₃ G₉ K₁ R₃ N₁ D₁
 T₆ A₂ R₃ T₁ L₁ P₁ H₁ E₁ A₃ E₁ K₂ H₁
 M₃ T₁ T₂ L₁ I₁ D₁ N₁
 L₂ R₂ K₁ T₁ S₁
 R₂ I₁
 D₁ S₁
 I₁
 K₁

D subtype (107 sequences)

N₇₉ C T₇₆ R P Y₇₅ N₅₄ N₇₁ T₇₂ T₉₃ T₆₁ T₉₄ R₈₄ Q₆₉ R₄₁ T₈₄ H₃₀ I₉₂ G₉₉ P₄₅ G₉₉ Q₇₉ A₈₈ L₆₅ Y₇₅ T₉₂ T₉₇ T₉₇ T₉₇ T₇₉ T₈₄ T₈₄ T₈₄ T₈₆ T₈₉ T₉₄ R₂₈ T₈₉ I₆₄ I₅₀ G₈₈ D₆₂ I₈₇ R₇₅ Q₇₆ A₉₅ H₆₄ C₉₈ N₇₇
 T₁₁ A₈ N₁₆ K₈ N₂₄ K₁₅ I₂ I₂₀ K₄ I₁₁ R₁₅ S₂₆ I₁₀ P₂₇ F₂ T₁ L₂₁ R₁ R₂₁ T₇ Y₂₁ F₁₄ A₅ K₂ R₂ T₂ S₉ K₇ R₇ G₅ R₆ G₄ K₂ K₁₉ K₅ T₁₃ T₁₅ T₇ N₁₀ T₇ G₁₂ K₈ P₃ Y₃₀ T₂ K₇
 S₃ I₇ S₄ R₇ S₂ Y₆ D₁ K₈ Y₁ S₃ K₇ G₂₁ I₃ S₁₅ L₂ Q₁₃ S₃ F₇ H₄ R₂ L₁ Y₁ Y₁ N₄ G₆ K₄ L₃ K₃ S₂ M₁ R₁₈ V₂ V₁₁ V₉ V₂ V₁₀ K₂ G₇ R₇ R₂ P₅ R₁ T₅
 K₃ S₆ G₂ E₇ R₂ A₂ N₁ V₄ E₁ G₁ H₄ K₇ V₂ R₄ M₂ S₁₁ V₃ I₃ W₂ T₂ I₃ D₂ T₂ I₂ T₂ K₂ R₁ N₁₁ V₂ R₅ K₇ E₂ Y₇ A₂ K₃ P₅ R₁ S₄
 D₂ M₁ F₂ Q₅ I₁ T₂ R₁ M₂ W₁ L₁ L₁ A₁ T₁ N₁ T₅ S₂ I₂ A₃ T₁ N₂ M₁ N₁ P₁ T₁ D₇ P₂ T₂ V₆ A₁ K₄ R₁ E₂ S₁ F₁ E₄
 E₁ R₁ A₁ S₅ I₁ S₁ Q₂ P₁ T₁ N₁ I₁ V₁ R₃ W₁ S₁ I₂ P₁ N₁ Q₁ N₁ E₁ E₁ I₁ G₇ G₁ P₁ Q₂ G₁ R₂ P₁ Q₂ V₂ P₁ S₁ E₁ N₁ F₁ I₁
 R₁ V₁ H₃ Q₁ A₁ E₁ I₁ N₁ K₁ V₁ I₁ V₁ V₁ L₁ N₁ V₁ D₁ T₁ N₁ Q₄ K₁ A₂ R₂ I₂ T₁ M₁ L₂ E₁ F₁
 R₁ V₁ I₃ D₂ T₃ S₁ E₁ Y₁ Y₁ Q₁ T₁ V₁ K₁ M₁ E₁ F₁

E subtype (124 sequences)

N₉₈ C₉₉ T₉₉ R P S₈₁ N₈₂ N₈₆ T₇₈ R₉₅ T₉₀ S₈₅ I₆₉ T₅₈ I₈₄ G P₉₆ G Q₇₇ V₉₁ F₈₉ Y₉₄ R₇₆ T₉₈ G₉₄ D₇₄ I₉₈ I₆₂ G D₈₂ I₉₇ R₉₇ K₈₆ A₉₈ Y₉₀ C₉₉ E₉₃
 K₁ Y₁ I₁ F₁₄ K₈ K₇ K₁₀ I₉ K₂ I₅ R₁₀ V₁₀ R₂₃ M₁₀ Q₂ R₁₇ A₄ L₅ H₆ K₁₉ R₁ E₄ E₉ M₁ T₂₂ N₁₈ P₂ G₂ Q₆ P₂ F₆ S₁ K₂
 S₁ N₂ T₃ I₂ T₁ K₆ I₂ P₂ K₂ M₆ P₆ R₂ G₁ H₅ T₂ Y₂ T₂ I₁ K₂ S₅ V₁ N₄ L₃ N₁₈ K₁ I₁ R₅ H₂ N₂
 Y₂ Y₂ R₁ V₃ S₁ K₂ G₂ T₆ N₄ L₂ L₁ I₂ V₂ A₄ L₃ T₁ X₁ A₁ S₁ Q₂
 T₁ R₂ S₁ M₂ X₁ Q₁ X₁ L₄ H₃ V₁ R₁ W₁ G₁ N₃ V₃ M₁
 A₁ S₁ H₁ R₂ A₁ A₄ S₂ X₁ S₁ F₁ A₂ K₂ V₁
 E₁ D₁ S₁ G₁ K₂ G₁ S₁

F subtype (59 sequences)

N₉₀ C₉₈ T₉₇ R₉₈ P₉₅ N₉₅ N₉₇ N₉₅ T₉₇ T₉₅ R₉₈ K₉₂ S₈₆ I₉₈ H₇₁ L₅₈ G₉₈ P₉₇ G Q₆₆ A₈₆ F₉₃ Y₉₅ A₆₆ T₉₇ G₉₀ D₆₆ I₉₇ I₉₀ G D₉₃ I R K₉₀ A H₈₃ C N₈₃
T₅ S₂ F₂ D₂ K₂ Y₂ I₃ R₂ G₈ R₁₀ I₃₂ L₂ R₃₄ V₈ I₃ F₃ T₂₇ A₃ S₃ E₁₅ V₃ T₅ N₇ Q₈ Y₁₅ K₃
D₂ X₂ S₂ T₂ I₂ X₂ R₂ Q₇ F₃ A₂ A₅ N₂ R₂ C₂ V₃
X₂ X₂ X₂ X₂ P₅ X₃ D₂ G₃ V₂ X₃ X₃ S₂ X₂ N₃ X₂ X₂ X₂ T₂
Y₂ X₃ V₂ V₂ N₃ X₃ Q₂ D₂
I₂

G subtype (23 sequences)

N₅₂ C T₈₇ R P N₉₁ N N T R₉₆ K₉₆ S₉₆ I₉₆ T₃₅ F₅₇ G₉₁ P₉₁ G Q₉₁ A₇₈ F₇₀ Y A₉₆ T G₇₈ D₃₅ I₉₆ I₉₆ G D₇₀ I R₉₆ Q₉₆ A H₇₄ C N₉₆
T₁₇ I₉ S₉ I₄ R₄ R₄ K₄ R₂₂ I₂₆ A₉ T₉ R₉ T₁₃ L₂₂ V₉ I₉ D₉ E₂₂ V₄ T₄ N₃₀ K₄ K₄ Y₂₆ K₄
I₁₃ V₄ H₁₃ L₁₇ S₉ A₁₇ T₄ N₁₃ Q₉
V₁₃ K₉ G₄
M₄ S₉ N₉ P₄

H subtype (2 sequences)

N C T R P N N N T R K₅₀ S I₅₀ R₅₀ I G₅₀ I₅₀ G P₅₀ G Q A₅₀ F H₅₀ A I₅₀ G A₅₀ I I G D I R K₅₀ A H₅₀ C N
R₅₀ M₅₀ S₅₀ T₅₀ Y₅₀ T₅₀ D₅₀ Q₅₀ Y₅₀

I subtype (1 sequence)

N C T R P G N N T R K S V H I G P G Q T W Y A T G E I I G D I R Q A H C N

J subtype (5 sequences)

V₄₀ C V₆₀ R P A₆₀ N N T R K₈₀ G₈₀ I H I₆₀ G P G Q V L Y A T G E₆₀ I₆₀ I G D₆₀ I R Q₆₀ A H C N
K₂₀ T₂₀ N₂₀ E₂₀ S₂₀ M₄₀ G₂₀ V₄₀ N₄₀ E₄₀
T₂₀ N₂₀ Y₂₀ Q₂₀
E₂₀

V3 Loop Variation

Summary of variations in the tetrameric tip of the V3 loop. This table is a tally of the different tetramers observed in the 1651 individuals analyzed. This tip is thought to form a turn, and is the focal point of the potent neutralizing antibody epitopes that have been mapped to the V3 loop, as well as of T cell epitopes. Each column shows the number of occurrences of a given tetramer in either the entire 976 sequences (combined), or in subsets consisting of subtypes A–O, and the unclassified sequences (U). Underneath the column heading is the number of sequences in each category. The most common form found in each subtype is highlighted in bold lettering. In the B subtype, GPGR is the predominant form, however globally GPGQ is more common.

	Combined	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	O	U
Totals	1651	208	975	119	107	124	59	23	2	1	5	13	15
GPGR	711	10	643		17	18	17						6
GPGQ	590	184	91	119	31	95	39	19	1	1	5		5
GPGK	81	4	76										1
GWGR	34		34										
GPGR	26	1	25										
GPGG	22	2	20										
GLGQ	21				20								1
GLGR	19		15		1	1	1						1
APGR	17	1	16										
GSGQ	16	3			12								1
GQGQ	13		1		12								
GQGR	9		6		1	2							
GPMA	8											8	
GPGR	6					6							
GFGR	6		6										
GTGQ	5				5								
GRGQ	5	1			3				1				
GVGR	4		2		1		1						
GSGR	4	1	3										
GPRR	3		3										
GPGA	3		3										
EPGR	3		3										
APGS	3		3										
APGQ	3	1						2					
GTGR	2							2					
GPGR	2		2										
GMGR	2		2										
GGGR	2		2										
GAGR	2		2										
AGGR	2		2										
GLGS	1		1										
GTGG	1		1										
GPMR	1											1	
GLRQ	1				1								
AQGR	1				1								
GPMS	1											1	
GPLR	1											1	
GARR	1		1										
GGGQ	1					1							
GPWG	1		1										
GIGQ	1				1								
RPGR	1		1										

V3 Loop Variation

	Combined	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	O	U
Totals	1651	208	975	119	107	124	59	23	2	1	5	13	15
GRGR	1		1										
GPGR	1		1										
GQGI	1					1							
GPLS	1											1	
GPWG	1		1										
GPGN	1		1										
GPGX	1		1										
GPGE	1		1										
GPEK	1		1										
GLGK	1		1										
GARR	1		1										
AWGR	1		1										
APGG	1		1										
AGGK	1		1										
AQGR	1				1								
GIGQ	1				1								
GGRA	1				1								
*PGR	1						1						

V3 Loop Variation

Summary of variations in the octameric tip of the V3 loop. This table is a tally of the different octamers observed in the 1651 individuals analyzed. This table is structured the same as the tetramer table on the previous pages. Amino acid changes proximal to the tip can influence the specificity of anti-V3 neutralizing antibodies. The forms that were found only once in the data set are not shown here, to save space, and are summarized in a row labeled “unique.”

	Combined	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	O	U
Totals	1651	208	975	119	107	124	59	23	2	1	5	13	15
HIGPGRAF	279	3	269		2		3						2
RIGPGQTF	136	46		82	1	2	1	3					1
RIGPGQAF	75	45		27		1		1					1
PIGPGRAF	71	1	69				1						
HIGPGQAF	62	56	2				4						
NIGPGRAF	59		58										1
HLGPGQAW	44		44										
TIGPGQVF	39					39							
PLGPGQAW	31		31										
HLGPGQAF	31	2	1				28						
SIGPGRAF	26	1	25										
HIGPGKAF	25	2	23										
RIGPGQVF	23	3		2		16	1						1
TIGPGRAF	19		19										
HIGPGQAL	16		2		13			1					
YIGPGRAF	15		15										
PIGLGQAL	14				13								1
HMGWGRAF	14		14										
HIAPGRAF	14	1	13										
PLGPGRAW	11		11										
HLGPGRAW	10		10										
HIGPGSAF	10		10										
HIGPGRAY	10				10								
TMGPGQVF	9					9							
PMGPGRAF	9		9										
HMGPGRAF	9	1	8										
RIGPGRVF	8					8							
PIGPGQAF	7	3			1	2		1					
HMGWRTF	7		7										
HIGPGRVF	7		7										
TIGPGRVF	6		1			5							
QIGPGRAF	6		5				1						
PMGPGKAF	6		6										
PLGPGKAW	6		6										
NIGPGRAW	6		6										
HLGWGRAF	6		6										
HIGPGRAV	6		6										
YLGPGRAF	5		5										
RFPGQAF	5	1					1	1					2
PIGPGKAF	5		5										
NMGPGRAF	5		5										

V3 Loop Variation

	Combined	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	O	U
Totals	1651	208	975	119	107	124	59	23	2	1	5	13	15
NIGPGQVF	5					5							
HLGPGRAF	5	1	1				2						1
HLGPGGAF	5		5										
HIGSGQAL	5				5								
HIGPGRAW	5		5										
HIGPGRAL	5		2		1		1						1
HIGPGRAI	5		5										
HIGPGGAF	5		5										
SIGQQAL	4				4								
SIGPGQAF	4	3							1				
PIGPGRAW	4		4										
PIGPGQVF	4					4							
KIGPMAWY	4											4	
HMGP GKAF	4		4										
HMGLGRAF	4		4										
HLGPGQAL	4		2		2								
HIGPGRVF	4		3				1						
HIGPGRSF	4	2	2										
HIGPGQVF	4	1				3							
HIGPGQTF	4	4											
HIGPGQAI	4	2			2								
YIGPGRAV	3		3										
YIGPGRAS	3		3										
TMGPGRVY	3		3										
TMGPGRVW	3		3										
TLGPGRVY	3		3										
TIGPGRVY	3		1			2							
TFGPGQAF	3							3					
SLGPGRAW	3		3										
SIGPGRAW	3		3										
RIGPGQTL	3			2	1								
RIGPGQSF	3	3											
PLGPGRAF	3		1				2						
NIGPGQAF	3	2			1								
HMGP GKTF	3	1	2										
HLGQGRAW	3		3										
HIGTGQAL	3				3								
HIGSGQAY	3				3								
HIGPGQVL	3										3		
HIGPGQAW	3		3										
GIGPGQTF	3	2		1									
AIGPGQVF	3					3							
XIGPGRAF	2		2										
TRGPGHVF	2					2							
TMGPGRVL	2		2										
TMGP GKVF	2		2										
TMGP GHVF	2					2							
TLGPGQAF	2							2					
TIGPGQVL	2					2							

V3 Loop Variation

	Combined	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	O	U
Totals	1651	208	975	119	107	124	59	23	2	1	5	13	15
TIGPGQIF	2					2							
SMGPGRAF	2		2										
SLGPGKAW	2		2										
SIGQGRVL	2					2							
SIGQQTL	2				2								
SIGPGRVW	2		2										
SIGLGQAL	2				2								
SFGPGQAF	2							2					
RIGPMAWY	2											2	
RIGPGSAF	2		2										
RIGPGRVI	2						2						
RIGPGRTF	2		1										1
RIGPGRAV	2		2										
RIGPGRAF	2		2										
RIGPGQAL	2				2								
QLGPGRAW	2		2										
PLGPGRVW	2		2										
PIGSGQAL	2				2								
PIGRGQAL	2				2								
PIGLGQAY	2				2								
PIAPGSAW	2		2										
KIGPGQTF	2	1			1								
KFGTGRVL	2							2					
HVGPGQAF	2				1		1						
HMGPGRAL	2				2								
HMPGQVL	2										2		
HMPGGAF	2		2										
HLGPGKAW	2		2										
HLGPGKAF	2		2										
HLGLGRAF	2		2										
HLGFGRAL	2		2										
HIGSGRAF	2	1	1										
HIGSQAI	2				1								1
HIGPGSAL	2		2										
HIGPGQAY	2				2								
HIGPGKVF	2		2										
HIGLGRAY	2				1								1
HIGGGRTL	2		2										
HIEPGRAF	2		2										
HFGPGQAL	2				1			1					
GIGPGRTV	2		2										
AIGPGRTV	2		2										
UNIQUE	189	26	93	3	26	8	10	11	2	3	7		